

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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INFO AMCONSUL UDORN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 25890

CINCPAC ALSO FOR COMIPAC AND POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS TH

SUBJ: ACCUSATION OF BORDER PATROL MISCONDUCT IN KHON KAEN

SUMMARY: PRESS ARTICLES HAVE BEEN CRITICIZING THE BORDER PATROL POLICE FOR ALLEGED HARASSMENT AND OPPRESSION OF THE POPULACE IN A VILLAGE IN THE NORTHEAST. HOWEVER, IT APPEARS THE POLICE WERE RESPONDING TO ORDERS BASED ON INTELLIGENCE REPORTING THAT COMMUNIST POLITICAL ACTIVITY WAS BEING CONDUCTED IN THE VILLAGE. FURTHERMORE, THE ACCUSATIONS WERE MADE BY ONE OF THE PRIME POLICE SUSPECTS. ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT YET CERTAIN THAT THE ACTIVITY UNDER POLICE INVESTIGATION WAS ACTUALLY COMMUNIST INSPIRED REATHER THAN POLITICAL WORK BY LEGAL PARTIES, IT APPEARS THAT THE POLICE WERE ACTING UNDER ORDERS FROM COMPETENT AUTHORITY. THE ALLEGATIONS DO NOT INCLUDE ACTS THAT CAN BE IN ANY WAY CONSTRUED AS "ATROCITIES." END SUMMARY.

1. ACCUSATIONS: SEPT 14, 15 AND 16, 1976, EDITIONS OF LOCAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE BANGKOK POST HAVE CARRIED ARTICLES ACCUSING THAI BORDER PATROL POLICE (BPP) OF HARASSMENT AND OPPRESSION OF VILLAGERS IN BAN NONG TAKAI  
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(SD 996646), SI CHOMPHU DISTRICT, KHON KAEN PROVINCE. A

FORMER VILLAGE CHIEF OF NONG TAKAI, SALAD SINGHACHAI, ARRIVED IN BANGKOK TO MAKE THE ALLEGATIONS AND SEEK ASSISTANCE FROM ONE OF THE KHON KAEN PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATIVES, KLAEW NARAPATI (UNITED SOCIALIST FRONT). SALAD ACCUSED A 200 MAN BPP ELEMENT OF "BESIEGING" THE VILLAGE, ARRESTING ONE VILLAGER NAMED SUD, AND OF POSSESSING A LIST OF 60 PERSONS FROM THE VILLAGE POPULATION OF 2,000 THAT ARE SUSPECTED OF BEING UNDER COMMUNIST INFLUENCE. KLAEW CONDEMNED THE ACTION, USING IT AS AN EXAMPLE OF GOVERNMENT SUPPRESSION HE FEELS CREATES MORE COMMUNISTS THAN IT SUPPRESSES. PROMINENT BANGKOK COLUMNIST SAWAENG YINGYEDOT WROTE A COLUMN CALLING FOR, "...PROMPT REVISION OF THE GOVERNMENT BPP POLICY."

2. OTHER MEDIA COMMENT: KHON KAEN GOVERNOR SUKIT CHUNLANAN, HOWEVER, STATED COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA BY STUDENTS HAS BEEN GOING ON IN THE VILLAGE FOR A LONG TIME AND REPORTS OF AN ARMS CACHE THERE HAD ALSO BEEN

RECOVERED. HE FURTHER STATED THAT THE BPP WERE CONDUCTING A PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATION, NOT BESIEGING THE VILLAGE. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS CALLED FOR A REPORT FROM THE BPP. NONE OF THE PRESS ARTICLES INDICATE KILLINGS OR OTHER MALTREATMENT OF THE POPULACE. THE ARREST OF SUD AND THE FLEEING INTO THE FOREST OF MANY VILLAGERS ON THE 60 MAN LIST (WHICH WAS REPORTEDLY LEAKED TO THE VILLAGERS) ARE THE ONLY ACTUAL ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE BPP.

3. INTELLIGENCE: ON AUG 28, 1976, HQS. INTERNAL SECURITY OPERATIONS COMMAND (ISOC) ISSUED A REPORT THAT IN NONG TAKAI TWO "SELF-CLAIMED STUDENTS" WERE CONDUCTING MASS MOBILIZATION OF THE VILLAGERS, INCITING THEM TO RESIST THE GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. THE "STUDENTS" WERE BEING ACCOMPANIED BY A FORMER VILLAGE CHIEF NAMED SALAD SINGHACHAI, AND THE MEETINGS WERE BEING HELD TWO OR THREE TIMES WEEKLY IN TWO DIFFERENT RESIDENCES, ONE OWNED BY A MAN NAMED SUD. FURTHER, 30 TO 40 COMMUNIST TERRORISTS WERE ALSO REPORTED TO BE IN THE NEARBY DONG LAN FOREST RESERVE. CONFIDENTIAL

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4. CONCLUSIONS: THE BPP HAVE EVIDENTLY BEEN DISPATCHED TO CONDUCT PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS DESIGNED TO COUNTER ANY COMMUNIST ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITY BEING CONDUCTED IN NONG TAKAI (THE GOVERNOR STATES THE BPP ARE BEING USED BECAUSE THERE ARE NO ISOC UNITS KHON KAEN). THE GENERAL AREA OF THIS INCIDENT HAS BEEN THE SCENE OF FREQUENT ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITY BY STUDENT GROUPS,

POLITICAL PARTIES AND OTHER ACTIVISTS. IT IS ALSO ON THE SOUTHERN PERIPHERY OF THE AREA OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THAILAND'S UDORN PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE. IT IS TOO EARLY TO DETERMINE IF THE ACTIVITIES WHICH CAUSED THE BPP TO BE ORDERED INTO THE AREA WERE LEGAL POLITICAL WORK OR

ORGANIZATIONAL EFFORTS BY THE COMMUNISTS. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THE BPP HAVE ENGAGED IN "ATROCITIES." FOLLOW-UP REPORTING WILL BE PROVIDED. IF SUBSEQUENT EVENTS PROVE SIGNIFICANT.  
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## Message Attributes

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